

## Corzine: Social Security is secure

By: Leon Tovey, Staff Writer

03/11/2005

[✉ Email to a friend](#) [🗣 Voice your opinion](#) [🖨 Printer-friendly](#)

### Senator Jon Corzine addresses residents about Social Security.

MONROE — Social Security needs work, but privatization is not the answer — that was U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine's message to township residents who attended a town meeting on Social Security on Monday at the Township Public Library.

New Jersey's senior senator told an audience comprised largely of township seniors that Social Security was secure until 2042 and that while the system needs work to remain solvent after that, the picture is not as bleak as some have painted it.

"No one's arguing with the premise that Social Security needs help," he said before stating for the first of many times his theme for the day: "But we need to keep the 'security' in Social Security."

During a half-hour presentation and a 15-minute question and answer session, Sen. Corzine suggested "adjusting" Social Security by raising the payroll cap on Social Security — currently at \$90,000 — and rolling back some, though not all, of the tax cuts passed during President Bush's first term.

The senator was not specific about which portions of the tax cuts should be rolled back, but told the audience that making the cuts permanent — as President George W. Bush wants — would cost the country \$11.6 trillion over the next 75 years.

Over the same period, he said, Social Security is facing a deficit of \$3.7 trillion.

"We have to ask ourselves, 'do we have a social covenant, or do we have tax cuts for guys like Jon Corzine?' " Sen. Corzine said, echoing former President Bill Clinton's statement about the Bush tax cuts during the 2004 Democratic Convention.

Sen. Corzine's presentation was well received by the audience, whose questions were mostly limited to wondering why the senator thought the Bush administration was so intent on privatization and whether Democrats in the Senate would continue to oppose privatization.

Sen. Corzine took pains to say he thought philosophical differences were at the base over the debate over privatization; he gently dismissed one audience member's suggestion that President Bush supported privatization as a way of repaying campaign contributors as "cynical."

"I prefer to give (President Bush) the benefit of the doubt," he said.

East Brunswick resident Irwin Hundert said after the event that he thought the senator's response was indicative of the kind of politician he was.

"I agree with Sen. Corzine that the president's view would represent a deep philosophical change in what our government is about," Mr. Hundert said. "I think he'd make an excellent governor."

Township residents were equally impressed by Sen. Corzine's presentation of his position.

"I think all the things he said should be on the table," Clearbrook resident Al Sookerman said. "I think we're headed in a bad direction and we gotta do something to protect our kids and grandkids."

©PACKETONLINE News Classifieds Entertainment Business - Princeton and Central New Jersey 2005

[✉ Email to a friend](#) [🗣 Voice your opinion](#) [🖨 Printer-friendly](#) [↑](#)